

Joan Donovan

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CURRENT POSITION

Director of the Technology and Social Change Research Project

2019-Present

Harvard Kennedy School- Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics, and Public Policy

- Develop and design a research and education program to build the field of Critical Internet Studies
- Manage a team of post docs, researchers, visiting faculty, and fellows
- Public engagement on research themes with diverse audiences across civil society, academia, industry, and newsrooms
- Successfully raised over \$1.8 million in funding to begin work on the “Global Media Manipulation Case Book,” an online encyclopedia of media manipulation campaigns
- [Technology and Social Change Research Project Website](#)

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy Sociology & Science Studies- University of California San Diego

2008-2015

- **Dissertation Research Project:** Technologies of Social Change: Mapping the Infrastructure of the Occupy Movement from #OccupyWallStreet to #OccupySandy
- **Dissertation Committee:** Martha Lampland (UCSD- Chair), Geoffrey Bowker (UCI- Informatics), Manuel Castells (USC- Communication), Kelly Gates (UCSD- Communication), Isaac Martin (UCSD- Sociology), Charles Thorpe (UCSD- Sociology)

Master of Arts Sociology- Concordia University, Montreal QC

2006-2008

- **Thesis:** *A History of Stigma: Towards a Sociology of Mental Illness and American Psychiatry*

Bachelor of Arts Sociology- Concordia University, Montreal QC

2004-2006

- Degree Conferred with Great Distinction

Business Major- University of Massachusetts, Boston MA

2001

Liberal Arts Major- Northeastern University, Boston MA

1997-1999

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Krafft, P.M. and Donovan, Joan. Forthcoming. “Disinformation by Design: The use of Evidence Collages and Platform Filtering in a Media Manipulation Campaign.” *Political Communication*.

Acker, Amelia, and Donovan, Joan. 2019. [Data Craft: A Theory/Methods Package for Critical Internet Studies](#). *Information, Communication & Society* 22.11 (July 20, 2019): 1590-1609.

Donovan, J., & boyd, danah. 2019. [Stop the Presses? Moving From Strategic Silence to Strategic Amplification in a Networked Media Ecosystem](#). *American Behavioral Scientist*.

Panofsky, A., & Donovan, J. 2019. [Genetic ancestry testing among white nationalists: From identity repair to citizen science](#). *Social Studies of Science*. Issue 49. No. 5: 653-681.

Friedberg, Brian, and Donovan, Joan. 2019. [On the Internet, Nobody Knows You’re a Bot: Pseudoanonymous Influence Operations and Networked Social Movements](#). *Journal of Design and Science* 6.

Donovan, Joan. 2018. [“After the #Keyword: Eliciting, Sustaining, and Coordinating Participation Across the Occupy Movement.”](#) *Social Media + Society* 4 (1):1-12.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS CONTINUED

- Donovan, J., Lewis, B., & Friedberg, B. 2018. Parallel Ports. Sociotechnical Change from the Alt-Right to Alt-Tech. In *Post-Digital Cultures of the Far Right* (pp. 49–66).
- Donovan, Joan. 2018. "Toward a Militant Ethnography of Infrastructure: Cybercartographies of Order, Scale, and Scope across the Occupy Movement." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, August 2018.
- Donovan, Joan, Irene Pasquetto, and Jennifer Pierre. 2018. "Cracking Open the Black Box of Genetic Ancestry Testing." in *Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences 2018* (HICSS-51).
- Currie, Morgan, Paris, Britt, and Donovan, Joan. 2018. "What difference do data make? Data management and social change" *Online Information Review*, 43(6), 971–985.
- Currie, Morgan, Donovan, Joan, and Paris, Paris. 2018. "Preserving for a More Just Future: Tactics of Activist Data Archiving." In *Data Science Landscape: Towards Research Standards and Protocols*, edited by Usha Mujoo Munshi and Neeta Verma, 67–78. Studies in Big Data. Singapore: Springer Singapore.
- Donovan, Joan. 2017. "From Social Movements to Social Surveillance." *ACM XRDS* 23 (3): 24–27.
- Donovan, Joan. 2016. "Can you hear me now? Phreaking the Party Line from Operators to Occupy." *Information, Communication, & Society* 19(5):601-617.
- Terranova, Tiziana. and Donovan, Joan. 2013. "Occupy Social Networks: The Paradoxes of using Corporate Social Media in Networked Movements" in Geert Lovink and Miriam Rasch (eds.) *Unlike Us: Social Media Monopolies and their Alternatives*. Amsterdam: Institute of Network Cultures.
- Donovan, Joan, Baker, Karen. 2011. The Shape of Information Management: Fostering Collaboration across Data, Science, and Technology in a Design Studio. *Scripps Institution of Oceanography*; University of California eScholarship.

WHITE PAPERS AND E-PUBLICATIONS

- Friedberg, Brian, and Joan Donovan. 2019. "The Platform Is the Problem." Centre for International Governance Innovation.
- Donovan, J. 2019. Navigating the Tech Stack: When, Where and How Should We Moderate Content? 2019, from Centre for International Governance Innovation.
- Donovan, J. 2019. How memes got weaponized: A short history. *MIT Technology Review*.
- Paris, Britt, and Donovan, Joan. 2019. Deepfakes and Cheap Fakes. Data & Society.
- Donovan, Joan, and Friedberg, Brian. 2019. Source Hacking: Media Manipulation in Practice. Data & Society.
- Donovan, J. 2019. How Trump put himself in charge of Twitter's decency standards. *Washington Post*.
- Donovan, J. 2019. First They Came for the Black Feminists. *The New York Times*.
- Donovan, J. 2019. With This Statement, I Give Notice That Instagram Owns Your Soul. *Buzzfeed News*.
- Donovan, J. 2019. Momo Is The Oldest Kind Of Story: Don't Leave Your Kids Alone In The Woods. *Buzzfeed News*.
- Caplan, Robyn, Lauren Hanson, and Joan Donovan. 2018. "Dead Reckoning: Navigating Content Moderation After 'Fake News.'" Data & Society Research Institute.
- Donovan, J., Caplan, R., Matthews, J., Hanson, L. 2018. Algorithmic Accountability. Data & Society.
- Nadler, Tony, Crain, Matt, Donovan, Joan. 2018. "Weaponizing the Digital Influence Machine." Data & Society.
- Donovan, Joan and Boyd, Danah. (2018, June 1). "The case for quarantining extremist ideas." *The Guardian*.
- Donovan, J. 2013. Occupy 3.0- A Slow Network Movement. *Waging Nonviolence*.
- Donovan, J. 2012. How Occupy Birthed a Rhizome. *Waging Nonviolence*.
- Donovan, J. 2012. Translating the Quebec Student Protests. *Waging Nonviolence*.
- Donovan, J. 2012. Conference-calling across the Occupy Rhizome. *Possible-Futures A Project of the Social Science Research Council*.
- Donovan, J. 2011. What Makes Us Strong. *Possible-Futures. A Project of the Social Science Research Council*.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Lead- Media Manipulation and Platform Accountability

2016-2018

Data & Society Research Institute Manhattan NY

- Developed a research agenda on media, disinformation, sociotechnical systems, and corporate accountability
- Supervised a dynamic research team of fourteen post docs, researchers, visiting faculty, and fellows
- Public engagement on research themes with universities, civil society organizations, journalists, technologists, and politicians
- Research Initiative Site: <https://datasociety.net/research/media-manipulation/>

Postdoctoral Fellow- UCLA's Institute for Society and Genetics

2015-2017

University of California Los Angeles

- At the Participation Lab, I managed a group of nine faculty graduate students and undergraduates, where we investigated the impact of genetic ancestry tests on the worldview of white supremacists using quantitative and qualitative methods.
- **Principal Investigators:**
 - Dr. Christopher Kelty (Information Studies and Anthropology)
 - Dr. Aaron Panofsky (Sociology and Public Policy)

Co-Principal Investigator

2010

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego

- Conducted an extended ethnography at the Ocean Informatics Design Studio, where I interviewed scientists and graduate students about the challenges of research practices and data collection.
- Our report describes the history and use of the Ocean Informatics Design Studio located at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego. This Design Studio was developed in 2007 with the intended purpose of supporting collaboration in oceanographic research.
- Publication: [The Shape of Information Management: Fostering Collaboration across Data, Science, and Technology in a Design Studio](#)

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- **2019** Open Society Foundation (225K)
- **2019** Omidyar Foundation (60K)
- **2019** AI and Ethics Fund (700K)
- **2019** Hewlett Foundation (400K)
- **2019** University of Ottawa (60K)
- **2019** MacArthur Foundation (45K)
- **2019** Democracy Fund (350K)
- **2014** National Science Foundation Grant
- **2014** University of California San Diego; Department of Sociology; Dissertation Writing Fellowship
- **2014** University of California San Diego; Science Studies; Dissertation Fellowship
- **2013** University of California San Diego; Science Studies; Dissertation Fellowship
- **2013** University of California San Diego; Department of Sociology; Advanced Research Support Grant
- **2010-2011** University of California San Diego; Department of Sociology Teaching Assistant Excellence Award
- **2007-2008** International Tuition Remission Award; Concordia University
- **2006-2008** International Tuition Scholarship; Concordia University

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- Science Studies Colloquium, University of California San Diego, CA** 2019
 - “What is Media Manipulation?”
- University of Chicago Anthropology Department, Chicago IL** 2019
 - “Source Hacking: Media Manipulation in Practice”
- Race After Technology Panel, Harvard Kennedy School** 2019
 - Panel with Ruha Benjamin, Khalil Muhamad, and Latoya Peterson
- Google Headquarters, Sunnydale CA** 2019
 - Presented research on hate speech and white supremacist organizing online
- New York Times and The Guardian US, New York NY** 2019
 - Presented media manipulation research to their editorial boards and journalists
- American Sociological Association, New York NY** 2019
 - Paper: “Source Hacking: Media Manipulation in Practice”
 - Paper: “A Histography of Critical Internet Studies”
 - Paper: “Parallel Ports. Sociotechnical Change from the Alt-Right to Alt-Tech”
- Online News Association, New Orleans LA** 2019
 - Presented research on media manipulation and algorithmic accountability
- International Journalism Festival, Perugia Italy** 2019
 - Panel presentations on disinformation, fact-checking and verification
- Council on Foreign Relations, New York NY** 2018
 - Panel presentation on Disinformation
- Congressional Briefing, Washington DC** 2018
 - Presented to Congressional representatives and staffers on disinformation
- Society for the Social Studies of Science, Sydney Australia** 2018
 - Keynote Lecture: “Activism, Algorithms, Accountability”

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING

- Covering Hate, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge MA** 2019
 - Brought together a cohort of 60 journalists who report on hate movements globally
 - Co-organized with The Guardian US and Data & Society
- “Please Do Not Include Us”** 2019
 - Convened technology workers across major corporations with data policymakers and civil society groups to discuss how to increase awareness of diversity and inclusion issues in AI
 - Co-organized with the Digital Justice Lab
- Covering Hate, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge MA** 2018
 - Brought together a cohort of 25 journalists who report on hate movements globally
 - Co-organized with The Guardian US

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIL SOCIETY ORGS

- Member of The American Sociological Association, Society for Social Studies of Science, and Council on Foreign Relations
- Reviewer for The Sociological Review, Social Media and Society, Science & Technology Studies, and Cultural Anthropology
- Board member of [Free Press](#), Advisor for [the Social Science Research Council’s MediaWell project](#), Affiliate at [Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society](#), Affiliate at [Data & Society Research Institute](#).

FILM, TELEVISION, PODCASTS AND VIDEO

- C-Span. 2019. "Race After Technology." Television.
- Boston Sunday Review. 2019. "Boston Sunday Review: Joan Donovan." Podcast.
- Endless Thread. 2019. "Infectious, Part 3: Going Viral."
- Podcast. On the Media. 2019. "Hating In Plain Sight" Radio.
- Council on Foreign Relations. 2019. "Countering Disinformation & Building Trust With News Consumers." Video.
- PBS News Hour. 2019. "How news organizations should cover white supremacist shootings." Video.
- NPR 2019. "Big Tech Companies Are Struggling With How To Best Police Their Platforms." Video.
- Wall Street Journal 2019. "How Radicalization Online Can (and Can't) Be Stopped." Video.
- PBS. 2018. "Quarantining Hate Speech" The Open Mind. Television.
- CNN. 2018. "Spreading Hate: The Dark Side of the Internet." Television.
- Data & Society. 2018. "Databite No. 107: Nabiha Syed with Claire Wardle and Joan Donovan." Video.
- Georgetown Law Conference. 2017. "Color of Surveillance." Video.